

MORE "SUN" READERS ON THE WAR

Says England Alone Has Waged War as Did the Huns

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American Peace Ideals Are Not Fitted to Europe

A Boston Correspondent Says the Old World Should Be Judged by Conditions Prevailing There and Not by Those Here.

SELF-GLORIFICATION TALK IS CONDEMNED

Letters continue to reach THE SUN from readers who express their opinions of the many phases of the European war. More of these letters are printed here as giving the views of the writers, not those of THE SUN.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: Ought we not in discussing European affairs to give more weight than we do to the fortunate accident of our geographical position and less to our moral superiority? One distinguished educator in a recent communication to the press speaks of the armed peace of the last thirty years as the "folly and wickedness" of Europe, and he adds that the belligerents, by trying to put the blame of the war upon each other, and by thus being all ashamed of it. It might show signs of course if they were all to blame. But must not that very question be settled first?

Believers in a war are often to blame, to be sure, but this is not always true. Napoleon was to blame for the wars of a hundred years ago. Frederick the Great was to blame for the wars of the eighteenth century. The English were to blame for our war of 1812. In each of these cases the other side sincerely wanted peace and would have met it more than half way. Such may have been the case here, and if that be true, if there was in Europe an inveterate trouble maker that surely would have a bearing upon the question of folly and wickedness on the part of the others in being ready with armies and armaments.

Of course it is easy to say they were all to blame. It saves time and reflection and has a specious air of liberality and reason. But it is not so simple. Let us take the case of Napoleon. He does not usually turn both parties out of court, saying that he can make nothing of them, that they must be to blame.

Too often, it is to be feared, such a facile attitude springs from that very indifference regarding the war upon which THE SUN has so forcibly commented. Let it be remembered that there is among the nations one—Germany, Russia, England, it matters not—which really has a hostile purpose toward the others, wants something of theirs, and if they do not see that, "needs it in her business."

The soft answer will not help in such a case. It will be no satisfactory equivalent for the coveted territory, the bit of territory.

Perhaps, too, it will smelt of cowardice. If the aggressor nation thinks that physical valor is of supreme importance and that people which does not stand always ready to defend its possessions has no right to keep them.

"Be hard," said Zarathustra. "Spare not thy neighbor. Do not believe that thou mayest not rob." Such a possibility ought not to be completely ignored. Napoleon is a fact. We, to be sure, in America, have never been so situated, but suppose that we were. Should we not lose faith in the soft answer, and make ready our arms with all possible speed? And would it be folly and wickedness if we did this?

Another distinguished educator thinks that because England and the United States can get along without arming Europe ought to and could were it not that her "ideals are those of fighting, power and domination, while ours are those of peace, justice, and the rights of man."

Canada and ourselves are practically alone on this continent, nations largely alike, speaking the same language, rich in natural resources, and with no other possessions. Can it be that for these fortunate facts we are entitled to any moral credit? One would judge that we were.

The situation is surely more difficult in Europe. There persistent diversity is the order of the day. A Frenchman is not like a German, nor like an Italian. He has no motive for anything but peace. There is no common type in the United States. Each country is closed, almost self-sufficient civilization. Differences in language alone are an immense obstacle to understanding.

The institutions, the histories, the literatures—all dating back for a thousand years or more—are unlike. Such differences breed hostility as surely as the sun rises and sets.

Slaves of Their Environment. Yet these nations must get along somehow. They cannot transplant themselves bodily away. If a neighbor does not suit them they must put up with him. They are the unwilling slaves of the status quo. What opportunity has a nation so placed to forget the national ideal of fighting power and domination? It is a problem indeed.

But we on this side of the Atlantic say that there is no problem because Canada and the United States can get along without arming against one another and because we can cultivate the ideal of peace. Doubtless in the back of our minds is the recollection of how well on the whole the United States has dealt with the different nationalities in her midst. But when foreign enemies come to this country they are subjected day and night to the mighty and relentless pressure of our atmosphere and institutions.

They are away from every other milieu, every contracting influence, and the soon become more or less Americanized. So far as they thus adapt themselves, we endure them. So far as they do not, we walk them down. We insist on high degree of uniformity. When we have to deal with nationalities in our midst which will not become Americanized, which remain themselves as the Chinese, Indians, negroes, we can honestly say that we are tolerant and cosmopolitan. Is it not rather the truth that we feel and display a frank dislike which were we living under European conditions would probably have us in a war within twenty-four hours.

Europe surely should be judged by conditions prevailing in Europe. To judge by conditions prevailing here is simply to use, so to say, a hundred newspapers how America has solved the problem. Be that as it may, it does not help Europe unless the conditions can be transplanted across the Atlantic. Unless there can be established for one thing, perhaps, a United States of Europe, which shall enforce uniformity and gradually efface national differences. Is this desirable? Is it not even possible? All must admit, at any rate, that our object should be rather to understand Europe than to glorify our-

And I'll back these ten people against all the good writers of the truth as they see it first hand.

"Where do our people manage to get to Germany? Not on your life! The only one permitted inside the German boundaries after strenuous efforts was a German American in our employ. And he was arrested twice. What chance has he by mail and cable? Nothing that shows that he wrote it. Just Garden or Eden reports and victory.

"Neither our correspondents nor any other correspondents showing reasonable discretion have been arrested in England or France. Have you heard of any correspondents penetrating Germany who have not been arrested? Of course they are released with apologies after there has been time to examine their trunks, satchels, pockets and rooms.

"The Germans are a great people. The newspapers and American people really admired them and do yet, mostly. But their officials started off so arrogantly, were so indisposed to treat anybody, particularly newspaper men, with common decency, that we could not help being angry and everybody, that we were angry. No wonder there is a grudge against Germany in this country."

It will be seen from the above that the present news appearing in our papers is not due to the censoring by the allies of material coming to this country, but rather to the arbitrary, if not arrogant medieval attitude which Germany is taking toward all newspaper men.

ROGER W. BARROW.

WELLESLEY HILLS, MASS., October 10.

SAYS ENGLAND PLAYED DOUBLE FACED GAME

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: The contention of Germany that England has played a double faced game in the European crisis has been corroborated by the view of some Englishmen by the following, which was sent to me by some English cousins and which appears in the *Nation* (October 10, 1914). Trusting you may find your column, I remain, C. M. BAKER.

Here is the letter, which is taken from the *Nation* for August 15, 1914, page 737:

Sir: Against the vast majority of my countrymen, even at this moment, in the name of humanity and justice, I protest against our share in the destruction of Germany.

A month ago Europe was a peaceful continent. If an Englishman killed a German he was a murderer. If a German killed an Englishman he was a patriot who has deserved well of his country. We saw the newspapers with greedy eyes for news of slaughter and rejoiced at the news of innocent young men, blindly obedient to the word of command, mown down in thousands by the machine guns of the enemy. Those who were left during the night leading up to the declaration of war saw a whole population hitherto peaceable and humane precipitated a few days down the steep slope to primitive barbarism.

At a moment the instincts of hatred and blood lust against which the whole fabric of society has been raised. "Patriotism" in all its guises acclaims the deed as a noble determination to vindicate the right; reason and mercy are swept away in one great flood of hatred; dim abstractions of unimagined wickedness—Germany to us and the French, Russia to Germany, conceal the simple fact that the enemy are men, like ourselves, neither better nor worse—men who love their homes and their families and all who are dear to them, common lives, men now mad with terror in the thought of their wives, sisters, children exposed with our help to the tender mercies of the conquering Cossack.

And all this madness, all this rage, all this flaming death of our civilization and our hopes, has been brought about because a set of official gentlemen, living luxurious lives, mostly stupid and all without imagination or heart, have chosen that it should occur rather than that any one of them should suffer some infinitesimal rebuff to his country's pride. No literary tragedy, no approach to the noblest of the White Paper. The diplomatists, seeing from the first the inevitable end, mostly trying to avoid it, yet drifted from hour to hour of the crisis, accepting the small concessions that might have saved the hour, hurried on at last by blind fear to loose the armies for the work of mutual butchery.

And behind the diplomatists, dimly heard in the official documents, stand vast forces of national greed and national hatred—artistic instincts, harmful to mankind, but at present levelled to Germany, concentrated and directed by Governments and the press, fostered by the upper class and the middle class, and by the artificiality of the makers of armaments, encouraged by a whole lot of literature of "glory," and by every text book of history which the minds of children are polluted with.

England no more than other nations which participate in this war can be absolved either as a nation or as individuals or as regards its diplomatists.

For the past ten years, under the fostering care of the Government and a portion of the press, a hatred of Germany has been created, a hatred of Germany which is greater than any other. I do not deny that the crimes of Germany have been greater than our own. But I say that the French, Russian and German diplomatists, necessary should have been taken in a spirit of calm foresight, not in a wholly needless turmoil of panic and suspicion.

No doubt the London censor slashes at every word that might be harmful to the English cause. You don't seem to see that it is the correspondents who are filling the papers with dismal accounts of the London censorship, while the correspondents who expend energy and have the wit are getting the news and the London censor is the last to hear of it.

I have staff writers who have been in England, Belgium and France for ten weeks. During the time I have received from them by way of London about forty small letters and one cable article, two of which were 1,400 words long. They sent me a duplicate of every story, letter or cable by steamer passengers.

I have carefully compared the cable stories and the letters to mail letters. Not in one case was a word missing or a word changed or a word inserted. I have critically examined all envelopes and have yet to see any evidence of tampering.

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conditions which would insure its non-participation in a war which, whatever its outcome, must cause untold hardship and the loss of many thousands of our bravest and noblest citizens.

BESTRAND RUSSELL.

August 12, 1914.

WARNING FROM LONDON

ON RUSSIAN AMBITIONS

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: A noticeable thing in England at this time is the growth of Russian influence, which began long before the division of Persia. The agreement made between the English, French and Russian governments binding them all to stand together and forbidding the conclusion of peace by any one or two of them which all did not sanction, places both England and France, of course, under the absolute veto of Russia.

John A. Hobson has well pointed out in a letter to the *Daily News* that this might under imaginable circumstances be a disaster to the world. He says that Constantinople as against possible "German aggression" before she would agree to end the war. How far Russian ambition goes, most of us are not sure. We are fearful that it menaces their northern mines.

What is to be hoped is that Alsace-Lorraine may become a neutralized autonomous buffer state, removing the occasion of revenge from both France and Germany.

One wonders how many Americans will be deluded by the recent preposterous talk of Winston Churchill, the leader of the English Chamber of Commerce, and other journalists here. He attempts to show that if Germany wins Great Britain will perish, and America in turn be threatened.

At the same time for some men everywhere to declare that the system of Armed Peace is creating this destruction of civilization and that it must be abandoned. We are told that the armaments are owned by the six nations now at war, by Italy, which has just been in war, and America, which has just escaped it. In the reduction of armaments the six nations must be equal. Let no new battleship be ordered by Congress, at least until this war is over.

Our navy is second to Germany's and will probably be the stronger when the war is over. Were our navy to Germany to conquer so as to leave her strong, she would have no desire to fight for colonies in South America, for she would get French or English dependence.

The one possible greater calamity than this War of Fear is that the real reason of it should not be learned, and that the English newspapers, which are the eyes of the world, should still hoodwink us and breed still further war.

LUCIA AMES MEAD.

LONDON, September 24.

FINDS FALSE NOTE IN LAST DERNBURG PLEA

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: Dr. Dernburg's last plea to the bar of American opinion, as published in your Sunday issue, has the "false note" so apparent in all German statements.

The English position, as stated by their officials and statesmen and as shown by official documents, is simply this:

First—England having guaranteed the neutrality of Belgium is trying honorably to uphold the neutrality of Belgium. Second—Germany having violated her solemn word, as shown in her treaty agreement, to uphold the neutrality of Belgium, England through her officials and statesmen is trying to uphold the neutrality of Belgium.

When week after week reveals the hideous power and lusty of the war, when the Red Cross protests avail nothing; when the flag of truce is violated; when the wounded are shot and the dead mutilated by this demon monster, we read that our Government will try to prevent German ships leaving without proper papers, we stand aghast at our neutrality, aghast at the realization of our nation's inaction.

What does it mean that we will only "try"? Can we do nothing? Is it possible that the United States of America must forever sit with folded hands and smiling lips, reaping commercial benefits in the face of a war where the invader breaks every law, where not only armies but women and children must pass; not only these, but treasures of art and faith must fall under this insupportable monster war?

Have we no part to play in this detestable neutrality?

Are we not sufficiently civilized to recognize the enemy of civilization as our enemy?

And now, the morning after the destruction of Rheims Cathedral, we read the noble grief of the French nation summed up in these words:

"The enemy would crucify our art and our glory, forgetting that it was from the summit of Calvary that the glory of Christ shone."

Our hearts ache within us and in our agony we cry aloud to our countrymen across the sea: Have you no blood to shed, no sacrifice to make, no crown to win? Is it not time for you to burst these degrading bonds of neutrality?

AN AMERICAN WOMAN IN PARIS.

PREDICTS WAR WILL BE A DISGRACEFUL TRADE

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: I have read Mr. F. McF.'s jeremiad at the hands of the theorists and his prediction that their occupation is gone, that they were as ephemeral as any gauzy winged fly of the forest, humming its life out in an hour, but that the sword and the bayonet and the bomb shall endure, and am not convinced.

There has never been a movement for the betterment of the human race from the time that the founder of Christianity exhorted his disciples to love their neighbor as they loved themselves. The peace theorists have largely curbed this, and yet humanity has progressed in spite of them. F. McF. says that all creation fights; it is the law of nature. So other peace theorists might have said man is innately cruel; you cannot change his nature. He will beat his wife and abuse his children and torture the animals that come under his control. But the peace theorists have shown how to master and control.

New York, September 25.

JEW'S EXPERIENCE IN GERMAN ARMY

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: Should the Jews of the European symphony with the allies or with Germany and Austria? Much has been written and spoken of the anti-Semitic attitude and intolerance of Russia toward Jews, but nothing has been said of it in Germany. Jews cannot become officers as a rule in Germany. (They may become now, in war time.) A high number of high ranked positions are closed to the Jews. This action is many times worse for Germany, which is a civilized country, than for Russia, which counts among the non-civilized countries.

I myself have been soldier in the Imperial Guard in Berlin, and have been "killed" all kinds of names, and have been subjected to all kinds of humiliations because I was a Jew. How about this? Nobody talks about it, but I want to draw attention to the readers of your paper to this fact, so that they may judge for themselves.

A. R. BENHEIM.

New York, October 4.

Says England Alone Has Waged War as Did the Huns

George Helmuth Contents That So-Called German Atrocities Have Been Justifiable and Necessary Reprisals Against "Sniping."

ATTACKS BRITISH FOR CONFISCATION OF PROPERTY

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: Since it has become a current fashion for British orators and poets who are trying to stimulate recruiting to refer to the "Huns" I may be permitted to write in elucidation of the differences between the warfare of Attila and that of our own day.

On the one hand the fact that "sniping" individuals and destroyed whatever they could not carry away. With the development of the races into distinct national organisms this method of warfare ceased. A civilized people observes constitutional forms in the declaration of war and carries it on with prepared weapons against the duly constituted authorities and fighting forces of the enemy. There is no war against the individual as such. The aim of war is peace; that is to secure from the enemy the acknowledgment of such rights as it has infringed, their reconstruction and the establishment of guarantees for the future maintenance of peace.

However, if the people whose country has been invaded by the Power which is carrying on the war themselves ignore the humane limitations upon modern warfare, they carry on unorganized warfare and revert to the mob condition of the past, they must expect reprisals in kind from the forces of the enemy. Such circumstances as the immolation of the unorganized individual disappear, and the warring army must be expected to destroy individuals and to devise forms of punishment which will prevent a repetition of the same offenses.

George Helmuth.

BROOKLYN, October 7.

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New York, September 25.

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